

Action 4: Establish a policy to achieve zero waste to landfills and incinerators by 2040.

Further definition of scope: Successful achievement of this Action requires formal approval of a zero waste policy—"Zero Waste" will have to be defined in the policy itself in a way that is both meaningful and achievable (i.e., that doesn't violate the Second Law). Our working definition is that by 2040 none of the materials used or discarded within the City will be wastefully disposed to land or air, in the City or elsewhere. Wasteful use of materials will be minimized and discarded materials will be reused, recycled, or composted to the maximum extent feasible, fully accounting for external environmental impacts. All discarded materials remaining will be processed to minimize the amount lost and to stabilize any that must be interred. (We have yet to determine whether our policy must restrict the disposal within the City of waste generated elsewhere.)

Status: The City has been a leader in diverting solid waste from disposal, with State-approved diversion rates of 60% or more since 2000. Actual residential recycling and composting rates total more than 50% for single-family homes. However, as of 2004, the City still disposed of 671,000 tons of waste, plus 160,000 tons of Alternate Daily Cover and more than 100,000 tons of additional soil and inerts accepted at the landfills for "beneficial use."

Recommendation: This Action is achievable and is recommended for continued implementation.

Existing City policies and programs that address this Action:

- Policies (the dated policies must be updated before 2012)
 - Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Plan and Siting Element (1994)
 - San Jose Source Reduction and Recycling Element (1995)
 - San Jose Household Hazardous Waste Element (1994)
 - Source Reduction and Recycling Procurement Policy (1990)
 - Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy (2001)
 - Pollution Prevention Policy
 - Sustainable City Major Strategy
- Programs already in place
 - San Jose has the most successful waste diversion programs of any large American city
 - CSJ's landfill contracts expire at the end of 2020, with an extension possible if space remains; existing landfills within the City will reach capacity by 2030 without increased diversion
- Policies and programs in development
 - Draft IWM Strategic Plan (will be used in development of IWM Master Plan)
 - Revision of Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy in draft

Further program needs to complete this Action

- Develop and adopt our own Zero Waste Policy
- Incorporate the Zero Waste Policy into the IWM Master Plan
- IWM is planning to implement new residential contracts that will be in effect until 2013. During this time, they will evaluate their effectiveness in reducing solid waste generation and assess how to move forward. This information will be utilized to assess the zero waste strategy and report to UN in 2012
- Issue an RFP for City Facilities Solid Waste and Recycling Collection with incremental steps toward Zero Waste; use the results as input to other programs
- Design the Clean & Green Downtown RFP to move the commercial sector toward Zero Waste
- Implement next set of residential contracts in 2013 and work on creating zero waste by 2040

Required Resources (for either further evaluating this Action or achieving this Action):

The Zero Waste Policy and the IWM Master Plan will be prepared using available IWM staff and resources in FY 2006-07 and 2007-08, with assistance required from MarCom, and with stakeholder participation from the Business Community, manufacturers, residents, and other City departments. Resources required for implementation of the Zero Waste Policy will be projected in the IWM Master Plan; they will be substantial.

Coordinator: IWM

Timeline: City Facility Zero Waste Pilot Collection RFP issued August 2006; Revised Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy to Council in Fall 2006; Zero Waste Policy to Council by December 2007; new City Facility Collection service begins January 2007; Clean & Green Downtown RFP prepared and issued 2007-08; service begins July 2009. On-going implementation. Next hauler contracts last until 2013. From 2006 – 2013, work on creating zero waste possibilities for Residential sector.

Action 5. Adopt a citywide law that reduces the use of a disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least fifty percent in seven years.

Further definition of scope: Successful achievement of this Action requires Council adoption before 2012 of an ordinance that would require the reduction in use of a material as specified above by fiat or which would provide for the establishment of a program that would achieve such a reduction within seven years of enactment. It would be preferable to actually achieve the reduction before 2012, which would require earlier action.

Status: The City has been a leader in diverting solid waste from disposal, and participates in the excellent Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Program and regional outreach campaigns to educate toxics. However, as of 2004, the City still disposed of 671,000 tons of waste and only 3% of household participated in the HHW Program., while complaints about litter in the Downtown and on area roadways increased, many of them about disposable products, especially plastic packaging.

Recommendation: This Action is achievable and is recommended for continued implementation.

Existing City policies and programs that address this Action:

- Policies (the dated policies must be updated before 2012)
 - Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Plan and Siting Element (1994)
 - San Jose Source Reduction and Recycling Element (1995)
 - San Jose Household Hazardous Waste Element (1994)
 - Source Reduction and Recycling Procurement Policy (1990)
 - Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy (2001)
 - Pollution Prevention Policy
 - Sustainable City Major Strategy (should this be included for Action 5?)
- Programs already in place
 - Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program
 - Toxics (mercury & pharmaceuticals) outreach by County and Watershed Protection
- Policies and programs in development
 - IWM staff are working in Santa Clara County Recycling & Waste Reduction Commission's Technical Advisory Committee to finish regulatory and fee proposals regarding universal waste

Further program needs to complete this Action

- Develop and adopt our own Zero Waste Policy
- Incorporate the Zero Waste Policy into the IWM Master Plan
- Evaluate products to identify both toxic and disposable categories to recommend to Council or to the R&WR Commission for regulation

Required Resources (for either further evaluating this Action or achieving this Action):

The Zero Waste Policy and the IWM Master Plan will be prepared using available IWM staff and resources in FY 2006-07 and 2007-08, with assistance required from MarCom, and with stakeholder participation from the Business Community, manufacturers, residents, and other City departments. Preliminary product evaluation can be accomplished by ESD staff in IWM, WsP and P&P, with participation by Finance/Purchasing staff on the EPP Team.

Coordinator: IWM/WSP

Timeline: Revised EPP Policy to Council Fall 2006; preliminary product evaluations performed in FY 2006-07; recommendation for any related fee or study (e.g., retail packaging, universal waste advance recycling fee) to CSA in Fall 2006 or 2007; Zero Waste Policy to Council by December 2007; fee implementation or recommendations regarding product bans or restrictions to Council in FY 2007-08.

Action 6: Implement “user-friendly” recycling and composting programs, with the goal of reducing per capita solid waste disposal to landfill and incineration by twenty percent in seven years.

Further definition of scope: Successful achievement of this Action requires formal adoption of a plan to reduce per capita disposal by 20 percent and implementation of new or expanded programs that can reasonably be expected to achieve that goal within seven years. The policy itself must define what is meant by “disposal” (i.e., does it include Alternate Daily Cover or any other “beneficial uses” of waste materials at the landfills) and explicitly state the timeline (including whether the deadline is 2012 or seven years from the date of the plan or of implementation).

Status: The City has been a leader in diverting solid waste from disposal, with State-approved diversion rates of 60% or more since 2000. Actual residential recycling and composting rates total more than 50% for single-family homes. Annual per capita “disposal,” not counting cover & inerts, declined 15% from 0.973 tons per year in 2000 to 0.827 tons per year in 2004; per capita landfill use declined 19%, from 1.19 to 0.966 tons per year over the same span. However, as of 2004, the City still disposed of 671,000 tons of waste, plus 160,000 tons of Alternate Daily Cover and more than 100,000 tons of additional soil and inerts accepted at the landfills for “beneficial use.”

Recommendation: This Action is achievable and is recommended for continued implementation.

Existing City policies and programs that address this Action:

- Policies (the dated policies must be updated before 2012)
 - Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Plan and Siting Element (1994)
 - San Jose Source Reduction and Recycling Element (1995)
 - San Jose Household Hazardous Waste Element (1994)
 - Source Reduction and Recycling Procurement Policy (1990)
 - Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy (2001)
 - Sustainable City Major Strategy
- Programs already in place
 - San Jose has the most successful waste diversion programs of any large American city
 - CSJ’s landfill contracts run through the end of 2020, however, the City is free to implement any waste diversion programs we choose
- Policies and programs in development
 - Draft IWM Strategic Plan (will be used in development of IWM Master Plan)

Further program needs to complete this Action

- Develop and adopt our own Zero Waste Policy
- Incorporate the Zero Waste Policy into the IWM Master Plan
- IWM is planning to implement new IWM residential contracts that will be in effect until 2013. During this time, they will evaluate their effectiveness in reducing solid waste generation and assess how to move forward. This information will be utilized to assess the zero waste strategy and report to UN in 2012
- Implement next set of residential contracts in 2013 and work on creating zero waste by 2040
- Issue an RFP for City Facilities Solid Waste and Recycling Collection with incremental steps toward Zero Waste; use the results as input to other programs
- Design the Clean & Green Downtown RFP to move the commercial sector toward Zero Waste

Required Resources (for either further evaluating this Action or achieving this Action):

IWM, MarCom, Restaurant/Food Service Community, residents, Commercial institutions
The Zero Waste Policy and the IWM Master Plan will be prepared using available IWM staff and resources in FY 2006-07 and 2007-08, with assistance required from MarCom, and with stakeholder participation from the Business Community, manufacturers, residents, and other City departments. Resources required for implementation of the new or expanded programs required to achieve an additional reduction of 20% will be projected in the IWM Master Plan; they will be substantial.

Coordinator: IWM

Timeline: Incorporate goal to reduce per capita solid waste 20% further in 7 years in the IWM Master Plan in 2007; ID neighborhoods that could do more within the existing Recycle Plus system in FY 2006-07 (2007-08 if hauler transition is necessary); expanded City Facility recycling in 2007; Clean & Green Downtown July 2009; after IWM residential contracts are up in 2013, institute food waste composting; on-going implementation..

Action 21: Address storm water pollution and reduce the volume of wastewater discharge by 10% in seven years through the expanded use of recycled water and the implementation of a sustainable urban watershed planning process that includes participants of all affected communities and is based on sound economic, social, and environmental principles.

Further definition of scope: Since the City has been a leader on programs that address this action, and has reduced wastewater discharge flow by 23% since the Revised South Bay Action Plan was implemented, is pursuing storm water pollution prevention regionally, and participates in regional watershed planning through the Watershed Management Initiative, Watershed Protection Collaborative, CCMP update process, and IRWMP process, continued implementation of existing programs will address this action.

Status: The City has been a leader in reducing wastewater flow through conservation and water recycling in response to permit requirements to protect sensitive salt marsh habitat. In addition, the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) has been addressing storm water pollution since 1990 in a regional manner.

Recommendation: This Action is achievable and is recommended for continued implementation.

Existing City policies and programs that address this Action:

- San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant discharge permit requirements (120 million gallons per day flow trigger) and South Bay Action Plan Programs:
 - South Bay Water Recycling Program: Wastewater recycling of up 10.9 million gallons per day in the summer. Collaboration with Santa Clara Valley Water District for system expansion.
 - Water Efficiency Program: Collaboration with Santa Clara Valley Water District to implement water conservation programs (rebate programs). These programs are reducing indoor water use by over 7 million gallons a day – reducing the volume wastewater as well as demand for water supplies.
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program permit requirements to prevent storm water pollution
- Watershed Management Initiative: Regional planning for urban watershed issues and implementation of a Watershed Action Plan.
- Water Resource Protection Collaborative: Development of guidelines and standards for creekside development.
- Integrated Water Resources Management Planning: participating in regional water planning effort.
- Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan: Participating in update of CCMP, which includes urban watershed planning goals.

Further program needs to complete this Action

- South Bay Water Recycling strategic planning effort (currently ongoing)
- Continued implementation of programs by ESD and Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

Required Resources (for either further evaluating this Action or achieving this Action):

16 hours per year for documenting and reporting under this action.

Coordinator: TBD

Timeline: On-going implementation.